

# SARA SAVES ANIMALS' LIVES



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There is so much pain. You've been mutilated...your ears cut off with scissors. Where is your food? What have you done to deserve those cigar burns? You've never known love or kindness. Your name is Sara and you are a puppy.

This is a true story about one of the animals that has found a permanent home where they are loved and cared for at Southern Animal Rescue Association, SARA, in Seguin. SARA, founded in 1996, is a no-kill shelter that provides sanctuary for animals regardless of special health needs or temperaments. Currently SARA is supporting 400 dogs, 100 cats, 2 giant hogs, goats, chickens, and a donkey on their 600-acre animal utopia.

According to Angela Vannoy, the physician and caretaker, SARA continuously receives animals from many different locations.

"We have dogs show up at the gate, at a constant basis. Either in a carrier or tied to the gate or we pick them up running loose on the sides of the roads," said Vannoy. "Sometimes people bring them in and say, 'Well look, if you don't take her, I'm just going to shoot her.'"

SARA believes in a policy of "unconditional life" and they don't refuse shelter to any animal.

"We rescue all of the old



**Sara, a pit-bull mix and relative newcomer to the Southern Animal Rescue Association, is much happier now that she's found a home at the sanctuary in Seguin. Photo by Ashley Wiede.**

ones and we don't turn anyone away," said Vannoy. "We take a lot of unadoptable dogs that their last stop is either being euthanized or we'll have to find a place to put them. So this is their last stop. We don't put anyone to sleep out here unless their quality of life is to where they are down and it is something that can't be cured or if the quality of life is so bad that living is worse than anything else."

Vannoy emphasized that their no-kill policy doesn't apply to just cats and dogs.

"This is a no kill sanctuary. We don't kill the rats, we don't kill the snakes, spiders, we don't kill anything. Nothing, we relocate everything. If rattlesnakes are out here, we catch them in a barrel and we relocate them out in the woods, same with the rats."

SARA employees often

witness heartbreaking cases of mistreated and abused animals.

"We have some of the saddest cases out here that you will absolutely ever hear about in your life. We've had dogs that have had battery acid poured all over them. It is just so sad that they've been mistreated," said Vannoy.

SARA is a non-profit organization that is dependent on donations and volunteers.

"Every little bit helps. Every ounce of dog food, every second a person volunteers. You may not realize it, but it all helps," said Vannoy. "Without volunteers we wouldn't be able to stay open. Anything can help us, we'll be grateful and the animals will be grateful."

To find out more information about SARA, please log onto their website at <http://sarasanctuary.org> or call their director at 830-401-0280.